United Nations A/58/643

General Assembly

Distr.: General
19 December 2003

Original: English

Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 55
Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/58/L.49/Rev.1

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. Under the terms of paragraphs A.10 and A.11 of Part A, "Enhancing the authority and role of the General Assembly", of the annex to the draft resolution, the General Assembly would decide that:

> "10. The resources available to the Office of the President of the General Assembly in personnel and other support shall be augmented from within existing resources, bearing in mind the provisions of paragraph 22 of resolution 55/285. Five additional posts shall be made available to supplement current support of which three shall be filled on an annual basis, following consultations with the incoming President, beginning at the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly.
>
> "11. Transitional office accommodation and other support shall be provided to the President-elect of the General Assembly. The Secretary-General is requested to make the necessary arrangements for the provision of such support, within existing resources, beginning with the President-elect of the fifty-ninth session of the Assembly."

2. With regard to paragraph A.10, two posts (one P-3 and one P-4) have been identified within the existing establishment of the Department for General Assembly Affairs and Conference Management. The staff on those posts, while remaining in the Department, would be designated to provide substantive and analytical support to the Office of the President in order to have the continuity and institutional knowledge and expertise that are sought. There will be no additional cost associated with the two staff. Upon consultations, it is understood that the remaining three positions referred to in paragraph A.10 would be at the D-2, D-1 and General Service (Other Level) levels respectively. Those positions would be employed on a temporary basis for the period of the terms of the Office of the President (12-month period). It has not been possible to identify vacant posts to accommodate those requirements. Therefore, the costs associated with the three positions would

03-66650 (E) 191203

represent additional costs over and above those already proposed in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005. The costs on a two-year basis would amount to $948,000, including $739,900 under section 1, Overall policy-making, direction and coordination, and $208,000 under section 29D, Office of Central Support Services.

3. With regard to paragraph A.11, suitable office accommodation has been identified within the Secretariat premises to be reserved for the President-elect for the period July-September each year. The costs associated with maintenance of those premises would be met during the biennium 2004-2005 from within existing resources under section 29D, Office of Central Support Services.

4. Under the terms of paragraphs B.1, B.2, B.4 and B.5 of Part B, "Improving the working methods of the General Assembly", of the annex to the draft resolution, the General Assembly would (a) allow the General Committee to meet throughout the session on an open-ended basis to advise the General Assembly on the efficient organization, coordination and management of the work of the General Assembly, and (b) request the Secretary-General to prepare a number of reports for consideration by the General Committee.

5. With regard to paragraph B.1 and other paragraphs related to the work of the General Committee, every effort will be made to schedule the meetings of the General Committee at a time when the existing capacity of the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Management could allow for providing such services on an as-available basis. On that understanding, it is anticipated that the costs associated with these additional meetings would be met from within the resources already proposed under section 2, General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.

6. As regards the requested reports (paras. B.2, B.4 and B.5), those would be prepared from within the existing resources of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management.

7. In summary, adoption of draft resolution A/58/L.49/Rev.1 would call for additional expenditures for the biennium 2004-2005 in the amount of $948,000. Every effort will be made to absorb those costs. Actual and projected costs relating to the requirements would be reported to the General Assembly in the context of the first budget performance report for the biennium 2004-2005.